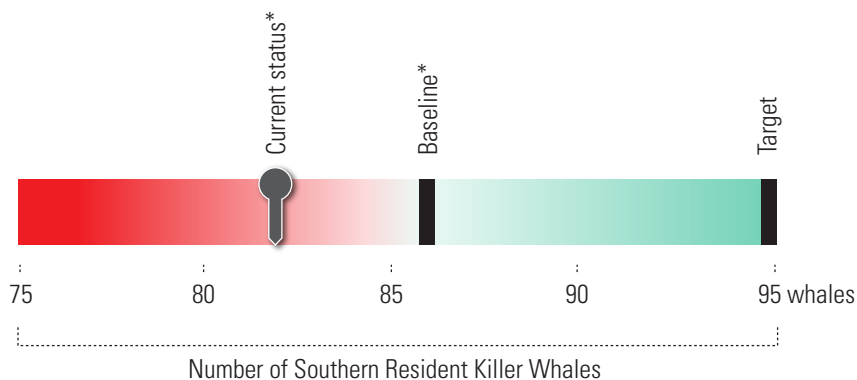


## Orcas

## Number of Southern Resident Killer Whales

## Progress Toward the 2020 Target

By 2020, achieve an end-of-year census of 95 individual Southern Resident Killer Whales, which would represent a 1 percent annual average growth rate from 2010 to 2020.



\* The baseline is the number of whales in 2010. The status is the number of whales as of July 1, 2013.



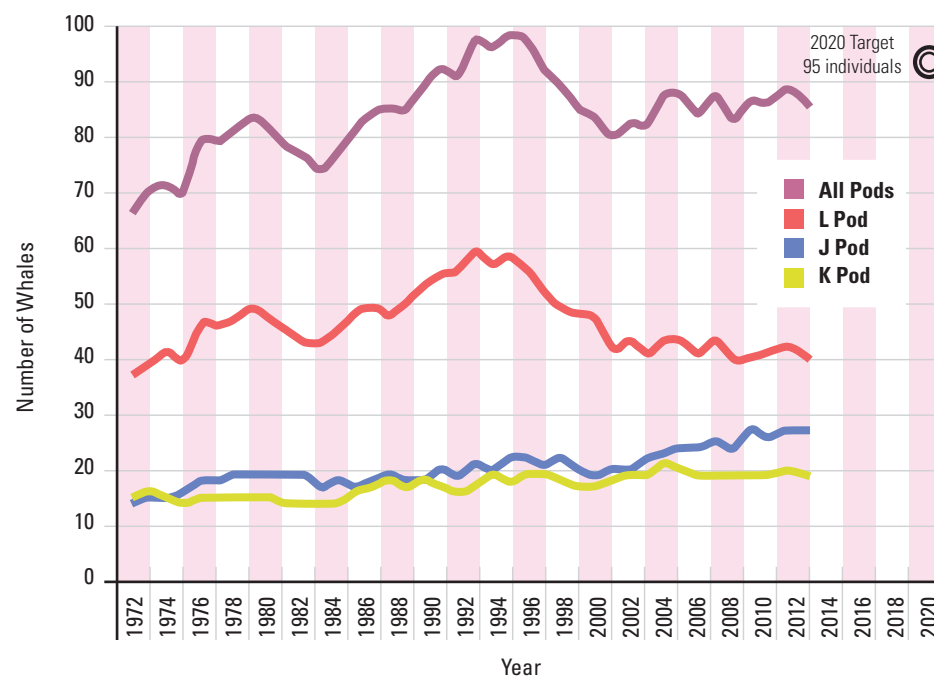
## Is There Progress Toward the 2020 Target?

The 2020 target of reaching 95 whales has not been met, and in the short-term there has been no progress. In fact, we have lost ground.

Since 2010, the Southern Resident Killer Whale population has never been larger than 88 whales. Furthermore, as of July 1, 2013, the size of the population was 82 individuals, down by four whales relative to the 2010 baseline reference of 86 whales.

Although there has been no progress made since 2010, the population has been growing, albeit slowly at about 1 percent per year, over the longer term (1979 to 2010). This population growth trend is consistent with the 2020 target. However, trends could easily be reversed, as the Southern Resident Killer Whale population is very vulnerable to a variety of factors, making progress toward the 2020 target tenuous at best.

### Number of Southern Resident Killer Whales in Puget Sound Annual, 1972-2013



**Figure 3.9.**

Source: Center for Whale Research

#### Indicator Lead:

Ken Balcomb, Center for Whale Research

#### For more in-depth information, please see:

[www.psp.wa.gov/vitalsigns/orcas.php](http://www.psp.wa.gov/vitalsigns/orcas.php)